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environmental protection, education for sustainable development, social enterprises, community-based environmental stewardship, sustainable development, environmental governance

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Social Enterprises As Instruments of Environmental Protection And Education For Sustainable Development: An Environment-Centric Sustainability Roadmap

Abstract

Environmental degradation, resource depletion, and sustainability challenges increasingly threaten ecosystems and vulnerable communities. Social enterprises have emerged as key actors in addressing these issues through environmental protection, sustainability education, and community-based environmental practices. Operating across sectors such as poverty alleviation, livelihoods, healthcare, agriculture, education, and environmental conservation, social enterprises differ from traditional profit-driven businesses by prioritising sustainability, social impact, and the fulfillment of social needs. This paper is based on secondary data and a systematic literature review with a specific emphasis on environmental sustainability outcomes, sustainability education, and community-led environmental protection models. A total of 831 papers on social entrepreneurship were identified, with focused analysis of 398 articles addressing sustainable models for the social and economic growth of women and marginalised communities. Additionally, 98 cited studies highlight key challenges and the growing academic interest in this field. The review identifies avenues for future research, including reinterpretation of theoretical frameworks, sectoral expansion, and analysis of operational strategies and performance factors. The study further proposes a sustainable roadmap for environmentally sustainable development of marginalised communities through conservation-oriented livelihoods and sustainability education, aligning social enterprise interventions with key environmental Sustainable Development Goals.

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INTRODUCTION

Aims And Background

Over the past years, social workers and institutions have highlighted the increasing correlation between social enterprises and sustainability. Although sustainability has both economic and social aspects, environmental protection is its pillar, because the ecological stability is the basis of social resilience and economic sustainability in the long term. Economic sustainability is about the availability of goods and services that satisfy human needs and minimize environmental degradation in production, consumption and distribution. The ecological aspect is concerned with the preservation of natural resources. Conversely, the social aspect focuses on the values of peace, liberty, equity, and inclusion of the marginalised groups, which help in the creation of healthy and sustainable societies.

The comparison of social and traditional business models shows that they have structural differences, but they have common aspects. A traditional business model is made up of a Value Proposition, a Value Constellation and a Profit Equation. These elements are presented in social business models in altered forms, and the profit equation is split into social and economic profit. This design enables more stakeholders and social and environmental impacts to be taken into account. In line with this, this paper focuses more on environmental performance and sustainability education as opposed to organisational or profit-structure categories. Social enterprises are mostly designed to meet the local demands. Social enterprises in countries like India and China have models that are adjusted to local socio-economic and cultural environments, which allows them to react suitably to local challenges and opportunities. This is an expression of the maxim of think global, act local. The global strategies offer resources and structural frameworks whereas the local strategies are relevant and flexible. The development of sustainable social enterprises should therefore be based on a balanced approach between global and local strategies.

Nonetheless, the growing corporatisation of social enterprises in the Global South is a cause of concern that profit motives can be prioritized over social missions. The comparison of global and local strategies is important to the analysis of the social enterprise success in developed and developing economies. The developed economies enjoy good infrastructure, policies, and funding opportunities unlike the developing economies, which have limited resources, policy limitations, and socio-economic instability. Strategic measures are required to increase the social impact without undermining the core values to achieve sustainable growth and scalability. These strategies must be in line with sustainable practices and Triple Bottom Line framework, which focuses on Profit, People, and Planet.

Role Of Social Enterprises In Environmental Protection And Sustainable Development

Social enterprises are essential in environmental protection by community-based resource management and conservation-based livelihoods, and sustainability education. They generate jobs, enhance innovation, and empower marginalised populations, which leads to poverty alleviation and inclusive economic growth. Social enterprises empower the local communities by providing them with jobs and fostering entrepreneurship. In Peru and Mexico, native social businesses have been successful in mobilising communities by creating employment and creating markets in local products¹. On the same note, in South Africa, social entrepreneurs have also facilitated community development by offering skills training and community participation². Social enterprises also play a major role in poverty alleviation by ensuring that the business operations are in tandem with the needs of society. Studies have shown that social entrepreneurship, coupled with environmental sustainability, has helped in the reduction of poverty in South Asia³. Social enterprises have been used in development-oriented poverty alleviation by improving the living conditions of relatively poor people in rural China. These effects are sustainable in case poverty reduction strategies are combined with environmental protection and sustainability education. Moreover, the social enterprises also help in sustainable development as they work on social, economic, and environmental issues at the same time. Their activities correspond to the goals of sustainable development, such as better health of the population and environmental sustainability⁴. In India, the Community-Based Service (CBS) Model has been suggested as an efficient way to sustainable social entrepreneurship, with the focus on community-based solutions.

Key Elements For Sustainability

Social enterprises are increasingly environmentally productive, sustainability-education-oriented, and long-term ecological custodianship, and are also economically viable. It seeks to solve the problems facing society in an innovative and sustainable way. These organisations balance their social missions and financial sustainability by utilising community engagement and technology to increase their impact. While social enterprises are primarily mission-driven, they face challenges balancing their social and financial goals. Technology and innovation should create new chances to eliminate these obstacles, but the ethical questions and the impact on the market should also be considered. Moreover, the social enterprise models will also require the appropriate consultation technology-driven solution for regular support, preventing fraud, financial transparency, multi-stakeholder engagement, and availing government schemes¹⁶. Also, the awareness of the local context to ensure long-term and sustainable outcomes. The sections below discuss some of the major features of social enterprises, based on the presented academic articles.

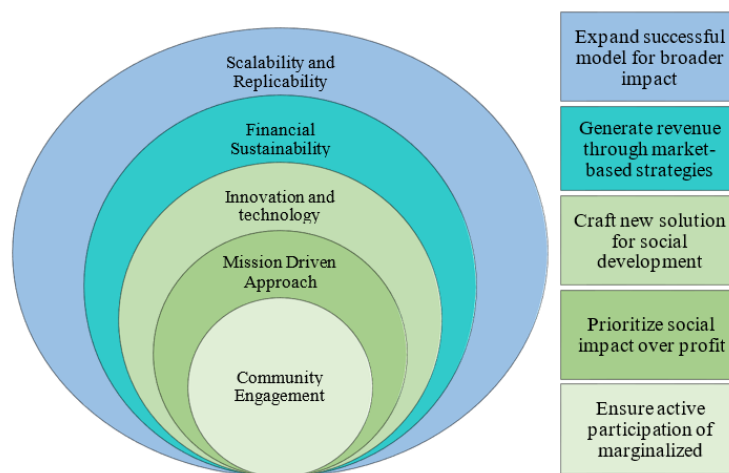


Fig. 1. Key elements for sustainability

Community Participation

Social enterprises require community involvement, especially in the inclusion of marginalised groups and active involvement. The Work Integration Social Enterprises (WISEs) in Lithuania, such as one example, are aimed at the social integration of vulnerable groups to work towards a number of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Mission-Driven Approach

Social enterprises are mission-oriented; they aim at creating social value, meeting social need and economic development. This two-way attention can drive one to the correct path of financial and social goals, and new approaches must be developed to strike the right balance between these items⁶.

Innovation And Technology

Innovation is one of the pillars of social enterprises, and this enables the social enterprise to react accordingly to social and environmental concerns. The open innovation practices, where the enterprise cooperates with other parties, are another practice required in the case of social enterprises' sustainability⁶. Also, the digital Social Innovations (DSIs) leverage technologies like blockchain and artificial intelligence to address SDGs offer scalable solutions to social problems⁷. Technology transfer processes are pivotal in enabling social enterprises to act as innovation actors, integrating social and technological innovations to enhance their impact⁸.

Financial Sustainability

Financial sustainability is another significant factor that ensures the survival of social enterprises in the business environment and their rise in power. This generally involves the adoption of market-based practices that are part of their social missions⁶.

Scalability And Replicability

To make the social enterprise models scalable to more impactful scales is important. This entails stakeholder interaction and dealing with the issues of scaling up to

help alleviate poverty and achieve social good⁹. The concept of everyday ecologies in the social solidarity economy highlights the potential for local initiatives to engage with wider networks, facilitating the replication of successful models⁵.

Institutional And Legal Landscape Of Social Enterprises In India

The Indian social entrepreneurship policy has evolved significantly in the recent past, and the government has learned the importance of social entrepreneurship in addressing socio-economic issues. The government has introduced several initiatives, such as the Startup India program, Atal Innovation Mission and the Central Sector Scheme, which support social enterprises in funding, mentorship, and incubation¹⁰.

Nevertheless, even with these efforts, the policy environment continues to have some challenges. As an illustration, the issue of access to finance is also a major problem, and numerous social enterprises are unable to access finance because of high levels of collateral requirements, and the alternatives are few. Additionally, there is a need for stronger policy implementation and follow-up actions to create an enabling environment for social entrepreneurs¹¹.

Spatial Patterns Of Social Enterprise Development In India

India's regional ecosystem of social enterprises is uneven, with certain states leading in density and activity. Interpretation should prioritize regional leadership in environmental sustainability activities (renewable energy adoption, sustainable agriculture, waste management, water stewardship) and the presence of environmental education ecosystems that enable sustainability learning and community participation. In the list of the best regions to establish a social enterprise, Maharashtra and Karnataka have the first place, and the other regions that follow are Delhi and Tamil Nadu, with better infrastructure, access to funds, and a favorable ecosystem. Indicatively, in Maharashtra, there are many social enterprises, most of which are focused on education,

health, and environmental sustainability. Meanwhile, Karnataka hosts a vibrant group of technology-driven social enterprises that deal with such problems as digital inclusion and rural development. Other regions, such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, have fewer social enterprises, primarily due to limited access to funding, lack of awareness, and weaker institutional support¹¹. However, there is growing interest in these regions, particularly in areas like agriculture and rural development, where social enterprises are beginning to make an impact. The developing trend of social enterprises in India has been astounding in the last ten years. Social enterprises have grown in great numbers owing to the growing

awareness, the support of governments and the source of funding by impact investors and philanthropic organisations¹³. This demographic trend has contributed to the vibrancy and innovation in the social enterprise sector, with many young entrepreneurs focusing on addressing pressing social and environmental issues.

The regional distribution presents the major sectors in which social enterprises operate across selected Indian states, highlighting regional priorities such as education, healthcare, environment, technology, and renewable energy. The distribution reflects the alignment of social enterprise activities with local socio-economic and environmental needs¹³.

Table 1. Regional distribution of key sectors of social enterprises in selected Indian states

Region	Key sectors of social enterprises
Maharashtra	Education, Healthcare, Environment
Karnataka	Technology, Rural Development
Delhi	Healthcare, Education
Tamil Nadu	Environment, Women Empowerment

Source: A study of basic framework of social entrepreneurship and present opportunities in India (Ref-13).

Frameworks And Mechanisms For Social Enterprise For Marginalised Communities

1.1.Capacity Building Of Marginalised Groups

By providing access to resources, training support, microfinance, markets, and help in developing a monitoring and evaluation system focused on sustainable growth for social enterprises. Capacity building should explicitly cover environmental skills (waste segregation, water conservation, sustainable agriculture, clean energy maintenance, biodiversity protection) and education for sustainable development to strengthen community-led environmental stewardship¹⁴. It should target the low-income earners, women, the disabled, and indigenous people. The projects make people self-sufficient and able to live sustainably.

Financial Inclusion And Economic Empowerment

Social enterprises are important drivers of economic growth through their financial inclusion mechanism. Savings programs and microfinance activities assist individuals and small companies to get funds, which eliminates reliance on the predatory financial structures. Business training is normally related to this financial empowerment as the participants will be in a position to use their resources and grow their businesses. Financial inclusion mechanisms should prioritize eco-livelihoods and resource-efficient micro-enterprises that reduce environmental pressure while increasing household resilience. Community engagement must function as environmental stewardship, mobilising collective action for conservation, local monitoring, and sustainability education-based behaviour change. Social enterprises promote community participation and social integration as they engage and involve the local stakeholders in making decisions¹⁵.

Alignment With Sustainable Development Goals (Sdgs)

Many social enterprises explicitly align their activities with the SDGs, addressing poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation. Priority alignment should foreground environmental SDGs and education targets, particularly climate action, clean water and sanitation, responsible consumption and production, life below water, life on land, and education for sustainable development. For instance, social enterprises in rural areas often focus on sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and eco-friendly products, contributing to economic growth and environmental stewardship¹⁷.

Social Enterprises As Vehicles For Inclusive And Sustainable Growth Of Marginalised People

Social enterprises increasingly function as vehicles for environmental resilience in marginalised communities by advancing conservation-oriented livelihoods and education for sustainable development alongside inclusion goals. When systemic inequalities are considered, these organisations can achieve their economic goals and social impact, establish sustainable livelihoods and empower individuals to lead better lives. This reply discusses how social enterprises contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, using some of the existing research articles.

Empowerment Of Marginalised Communities

Social enterprises are crucial in empowering marginalised communities by providing them with the tools and resources to achieve self-sufficiency. These organisations often focus on capacity-building, financial inclusion, and employment generation, essential for long-term community resilience. For instance, social entrepreneurship initiatives have successfully uplifted marginalised groups such as low-income communities,

women entrepreneurs, people with disabilities, and Indigenous populations through innovative and sustainable business models.

An important tool used by the social enterprises is the carrying out of skills training programs, and microfinance projects. Through these programs, people are able to get the required skills and access to capital that is vital in starting and sustaining of small businesses. As an illustration, microfinance institutions in the Mumbai slums have become significant sources of finance to marginalised micro-entrepreneurs, which give them access to credit and other finance facilities¹⁸.

Social enterprises enable women who are marginalised to gain access to markets other than financial inclusion. These organisations enable individuals and small businesses to make income and enhance their economic status by linking them to the markets, thereby generating income and improving their economic status. This strategy has the benefit of improving economic opportunities as well as improving the general economic development of the community.

Creating Sustainable Livelihoods

The social enterprises play a significant role in establishing the marginalised communities on a sustainable livelihood. These organisations assist people in becoming financially stable and self-employed through emphasis on wage employment and self-employment opportunities. As an illustration, community-based enterprises (CBEs) in fragile and conflict-prone regions have been observed to deliver economic advantages in terms of livelihoods and source of income. Such businesses usually expand into service-related operations, and this increases their sustainability¹⁹.

Social entrepreneurship has been particularly effective in improving livelihoods in rural areas. Organisations such as CHEMA in Tanzania have implemented social entrepreneurship projects that strengthen agricultural production, increase household income, and enhance the effectiveness of agricultural activities. These initiatives address poverty and contribute to environmental preservation and food security²⁰.

The role of social innovation in creating sustainable livelihoods can not be overstated. Social innovation initiatives, such as those implemented by social entrepreneurs in Africa, have empowered communities to generate electricity using locally suitable solutions. This improves social well-being and contributes to economic growth and environmental sustainability²¹.

Addressing Systemic Inequalities

The social enterprises are well placed to address structural inequalities that perpetuate poverty and marginalization. Socially inclusive businesses (SIBs) are the model that trying to improve the livelihood of the marginalised groups by including the low-income actors in the value chains as either consumers, suppliers, or producers of the product. These organisations are implemented in different settings and institutional systems, and therefore, their adaptability to the demands of different communities.

The capability of social enterprises to fill service gaps in underserved communities is one of the strengths of the organisations. Maximising the social value instead of

profit maximisation will enable these organisations to solve major problems like lack of education, healthcare, and access to clean energy. An example is the African social entrepreneurs who have come up with innovative ways of enhancing access to affordable and clean energy, which has a positive effect on social and economic development²¹.

Social enterprises are also significant in the provision of sustainable social and economic development within the marginalised population, as it reduces social issues and is economically viable. This type of business creates jobs for people and empowers them through education and community building that has long-term returns. Below are the key highlights of how the social enterprises have contributed to this growth²².

Economic Empowerment

The economic empowerment can be interpreted with reference to their contribution to sustainable livelihoods, efficient use of resources, and sustainable development education. Social enterprises can also employ people, particularly in the underserved areas and this factor contributes to reducing poverty. Also, by combining social objectives with business strategies, these enterprises ensure sustainability and economic growth, as seen in renewable energy sectors.

Community Engagement

Community engagement functions as environmental stewardship by promoting sustainability education, collective conservation action, and ecological awareness. Social entrepreneurship education programs promote involvement and development of skills by the community and a feeling of ownership by the participants.

Innovative Solutions

Innovative solutions are evaluated primarily by their ability to enhance environmental protection, ecological resilience, and sustainability learning.

Eco-Innovation. Environmentally Sustainable Social Enterprises (ESSEs) leverage innovative practices to address sustainability challenges and contribute to social and environmental goals.

Enabling Ecosystems For Social Enterprises

Social enterprises can only thrive in an environment that supports their success in leading to sustainable development. Such ecosystems comprise government measures and the partnership of the private sector and social innovation systems that can empower social entrepreneurs to do so, address the obstacles of insufficient finances, regulatory obstacles, and scalability issues. The outcome of environmental protection should also be enabled by means of facilitating the ecosystems, which implies the partnership of the environmental governance with universities and research organisations, institutional collaboration, sustainability education platforms and local organisations that promote the conservation and spread of clean-technologies in the community. The government policies are very important in enhancing the social entrepreneurship. Social enterprises may be enhanced by factors such as policies made accessible to them which enable them to access

funding, business training and mentorship which make them far more effective in generating socio-economic change. It has been called upon the government to come up with policies that would allow social innovation that is seen to be the vehicle that allows individuals and communities to rise out of poverty in Nigeria.

In addition to government support, private-sector collaborations are essential for scaling the impact of social enterprises. Partnerships between social entrepreneurs and private sector organisations can provide access to resources, expertise, and markets, which are critical for sustaining and expanding social entrepreneurship initiatives. For example, the Business-to-Business Government to Beneficiary (B2B2G2 Beneficiary) business model has been successfully used in Africa to maximise social impact through corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives²¹.

Impact Of Social Enterprises

The relevance of social enterprises in India is best captured by the results of environmental sustainability, which include community conservation, resource efficiency, access to clean energy, reduction of wastes, and education towards sustainable development to help in

sustaining resilient livelihoods for marginalised members of the society. These enterprises focus on creating value for society, often targeting marginalised communities such as low-income groups, women, and people with disabilities. For example, many social enterprises in India provide access to education, healthcare, and clean energy, while others focus on empowering women through financial inclusion and skill development programs²⁴.

Another way of measuring the impacts of social enterprises is in their contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Social enterprises in India are important in realising SDGs through poverty reduction, inequality, and climate change³. Many social enterprises in India focus on environmental sustainability. They promote eco- friendly practices and provide innovative solutions to environmental challenges, contributing to preserving natural resources²³.

Comparative Analysis Of Social Enterprises

The Comparative analysis presents a comparative overview of key aspects of social enterprises, highlighting their strategies and corresponding economic and social benefits.

Table 2. Comparative analysis of strategies, economic benefits, and social benefits of social enterprises

Aspect	Strategies	Economic benefits	Social benefits
Empowerment	Skills training, microfinance, and market access facilitation	Income generation, financial stability, and economic development	Enhanced community engagement, social cohesion, and empowerment
Livelihoods	Wage employment, self-employment, and agricultural diversification	Increased household income, improved livelihoods, and food security	Environmental preservation and improved access to institutions. services
Environmental Sustainability	Conservation livelihoods, waste reduction, clean energy, water stewardship, and sustainability education	Resource savings, stable eco-income, reduced disaster vulnerability	environmental health, community stewardship, environmental justice
Inequality	Cross-sector collaboration, social innovation, and inclusive business models	Bridging service gaps, addressing systemic inequalities	Improved access to education, healthcare, and clean energy

Barriers And Challenges To The Growth Of Social Enterprise

The main obstacles is construed as impediments to the realization of environmental sustainability, such as a lack of sustainability education, the lack of ties to environmental governance, and inadequate capacity to adopt eco-innovations at a community level. Social enterprises face challenges that hinder their growth and impact despite their potential. These challenges include limited funding, regulatory barriers, and scalability constraints²⁵.

The solution to these challenges will involve social entrepreneurs, policymakers, and other stakeholders. The government can be very instrumental by coming up with policies that enhance social innovation as well as access to funding and business training. Another way through which the role of a social entrepreneur can be realised is through collaboration with the social entrepreneurs by the private sector organisations to utilise the resources and expertise.

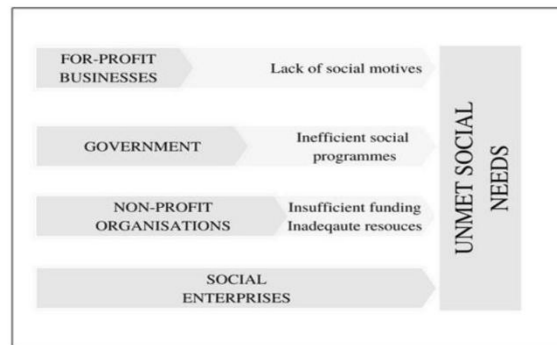


Fig. 2. Barriers and challenges addressed by social enterprises in meeting unmet social needs

(Performance measurement system: need integration and implementation in for-benefit social enterprises in India ref-12)

Social enterprises tend to have difficulties with getting sufficient funding, especially when they are starting with their business. This is worsened by the inability to rely on conventional financing systems, which leave most organisations to depend on grants and donations²⁶. The social enterprise regulatory environment is usually vague or restrictive, posing growth challenges. As an example, in most of the countries, there are no particular legal frameworks of social enterprises, so they cannot operate effectively²⁷. It is very difficult to expand social enterprise models and at the same time preserve their social impact. The social and environmental impact of these organisations is also hard to measure, and, therefore, massive monitoring and evaluation frameworks are needed¹⁷. Most social enterprises are located in regions that lack human capital and would therefore require serious investments on capacity building and development of skills. This involves entrepreneur and employee training and building of managerial and technical skills²⁹. Finance is one of the most important problems social enterprises have in India. The traditional banks tend to demand some form of collateral, and the personal interests of investors can become an obstacle on the way to the expansion of social business¹¹.

Social enterprises have great potential, but they are not always able to overcome the problems connected with poor policy support and financial issues. In the Philippines, the policy environment is still not responsive towards the development of social enterprises and thus requires stricter research and supportive policies³⁰ is the same situation in India which has hindered the development of social enterprises due to a lack of a suitable policy framework.

Issues like a lack of involvement of local people and poor follow-ups of operations may constrain the sustainability of the performance of the social enterprises. Social enterprises can lead to sustainable development, although the enterprises are faced with issues like balancing between financial sustainability and social impact. Integrative triple bottom line -economic, social, and environmental business models are essential³¹.

Cultural and economic factors in India give opportunities and challenges to diverse social enterprises. These differences should be comprehended so that the strategies can be tailored and effectively meet the needs of marginalised communities, and this is the reason why the innovative business processes in a social enterprise in North India provided women with a chance to become

economically active, without violating local social and cultural standards, which resulted in the alteration of the social order itself. It highlights the involvement in the social enterprise, empowers women to influence how they use their time and how family income is spent, and ultimately contributes to social change by increasing household income, improving education quality for children, and changing the attitudes and behaviours of men in traditional and patriarchal cultures. Limited exploration of the long-term sustainability and scalability of the social enterprise model implemented in the rural context of North India. There is a lack of in-depth analysis of women's potential challenges and barriers in maintaining their empowerment and social change outcomes over time within the social entrepreneurship framework³².

The Future Of Social Entrepreneurship In Marginalised Communities

The purpose of having social enterprises in India is to respond to the social needs that are not met in society by blending both the economic activities and the social missions. This two-fold approach permits them to create financial resources and work towards social objectives, like the poverty alleviation and education³³. Grameen Bank, which has been motivating in the world, is a perfect example of how, through micro-finance initiatives, the marginalised groups, especially women, may be empowered by obtaining financial freedom and entrepreneurial chances.

Social enterprises most importantly involve innovation that allows them to come up with sustainable solutions that meet the needs of the localities. Social enterprises in India tend to practice open innovation and cooperate with partners in order to increase the impact and sustainability⁶. Such businesses adopt innovative ideas like utilising unproductive land to productive uses and cut on wastage that are beneficial to the community to promote the sustainability of the environment. Social organisations like self- help groups (SHGs), and farmer-producer organisations (FPOs) are important in enhancing social cohesiveness and economic growth in rural India. The strength of these groups is given through the access to education, healthcare, instant financial services, food processing, food distribution, and decision-making, but these do not necessarily result in instant rise of income³⁴.

Policy Implications And Recommendations

1.2.Strengthening Ecosystems For Social Entrepreneurship

The policymakers ought to design enabling environments for social enterprises through the availability of funds, ease in processes, and through stakeholder cooperation. This involves designing specialised support systems for the marginalised communities²².

1.3.Encouraging Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration

Governments, civil societies, and the actors of the private sector have been known to be instrumental in ensuring the success of social enterprises. Policymakers are expected to promote collaborations that can maximise the resources held by each group of stakeholders.

1.4.Measuring And Reporting Impact

Effective social enterprise impact measurement frameworks are necessary to determine the effectiveness of social enterprises. The standardised methods of measuring social and environmental impact should be developed as a priority of policymakers and practitioners³⁵.

Need For Supportive Frameworks

Policy Recommendations: Social enterprises require integrated policy frameworks that can help them grow and have developmental effects. The suggested recommendations involve the provision of monitoring and evaluation supporting tools, financial support, networking, and allowing social enterprises to flourish²⁷. Developing a policy roadmap for strategic and model-based social enterprises in India is recommended to encourage incubation and growth²⁴.

Education and Training. Social entrepreneurship education and training can foster sustainable development to a large extent. The programs involving youth in community interventions have impacted positively on their involvement in social entrepreneurship. It is important to note that the introduction of social entrepreneurship into the larger development strategies is essential³⁶.

Although social enterprises have great potential for facilitating socio-economic development among the disadvantaged communities, their future depends on favorable policy frameworks and sustainable business frameworks. Such challenges as poor policy support and the sustainability of outcomes should be addressed to maximise the impact of the outcomes. Also, the cultural backgrounds of communities are critical determinants of the success of social businesses, and they require custom strategies to meet the local standards and requirements.

Scaling social enterprises involves pathways such as advocacy, networks, programmes, franchising, and direct control, with emphasis on collaborative leadership and a staged progression from innovation to system change²⁸.

Conclusions

The need to consider ecological management, sustainability education, and community participation, which marginalizes society as a whole, therefore, recognizes social enterprise as an important tool for environmental protection and education towards achieving sustainable development, which is the full

objective of the paper: environmental protection. Social enterprises in India enhance sustainable development when livelihood approaches are always connected to environmental protection- clean energy use, sustainable agriculture, waste management, water stewardship, and conservation-based micro-enterprises- promoted by education on sustainable development and social involvement. Environmental governance capacity and sustainability learning networks offer the solution to regional concentration and ecosystem development as opposed to enterprise density. In general, the results confirm that social enterprises can be permanently relevant when socio-economic goals are not in the center of attention but ecological sustainability, sustainability education, and ecological resilience. By positioning social enterprises as environmental steward, one enhances their contribution to sustainable development and makes their role consistent with the modern environmental governance agendas.

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